

Must Not Increase Dependence on Foreign Oil, Jeopardize Economic Recovery

Washington, DC – Last week, Congressman Harry Teague led over fifteen of his colleagues in sending a [letter](#) to House leadership, urging caution while drafting legislation to address the BP oil spill without unnecessarily restricting onshore energy development or imposing unreasonable limitations on future offshore energy production. In a letter to Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer, Teague argued that legislation should hold BP accountable and address deficiencies at agencies that have not effectively regulated offshore energy production – but not unnecessarily restrict American energy development, jeopardize millions of jobs and endanger the country's continued economic recovery.

“...as you work to assemble the House of Representative's legislative response to the BP oil spill, we respectfully ask that you craft a bill that specifically responds to the BP disaster and does not become a vehicle for extraneous proposals that would restrict onshore energy development or impose unreasonable limits on future offshore energy production,” Teague writes in the [letter](#). “A knee-jerk reaction by Congress that restricts American energy development would jeopardize the employment of millions of hardworking Americans, deepen our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, and further starve states of substantial revenue from state oil and gas taxes meaning fewer teachers in the classroom and fewer cops on the beat.”

The letter outlines several proposals that if included in the legislation or structured irresponsibly could restrict American oil and natural gas production and disproportionately affect independent oil and natural gas producers. Teague's concerns include increased oil and gas taxes, federal regulation of hydraulic fracturing, federal onshore oil and gas leasing reforms, and discrimination against independent producers operating offshore, among others. The proposed eliminations or changes to the legislation would ensure that responsible independent oil and gas

producers, like many of the companies in southeastern New Mexico, can continue to operate. These wells account for approximately 20 percent of American oil production and are essential to efforts to end our country's dependence on foreign oil

The [full text](#) of the letter is available [here](#) .

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